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# MONTANA LABOR MARKETEC

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

### MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana House Of the

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FL. 219.



JUNE, 1961

### **Industry Adds 3,300 More** Workers to Payrolls

Montana's industrial and commercial employers added 3,300 workers to their payrolls during May, but failed by 1,500 to match the employment level of May, 1960.

166,400 Employed in May

Commission estimates figured in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics placed the number of non-farm wage earners on May payrolls at 166,400. Average May employment of the past ten years is set at 162,800. The highest May total of record was in 1956 when 169,300 workers were employed.

Seasonal Gains Short

The seasonal employment increase of 3,300 workers from April to May, while substantial, was somewhat smaller than has been occurring during the past ten years. For instance, the April to May employment gain last year was 4,500. In 1959 it was 5,300, and in 1958 it was 6,000. The average April-May increase of the past ten years was 4,900, or 1,600 more than the employment rise this year.

Construction Heads the List

Over-the-month employment gains were most evident in construction and manufacturing industries. Construction payrolls expanded by 1,300 workers from April. Manufacturing employment was up 1,100 with 1,000 of this gain in lumber and timber products. The balance was in smelter employment with a rise of 100 from April. Employment expansion, largely seasonal, occurred in trade, up 700; transportation and utilities, up 200; and government, up 100.

6 Down-2 up from last year

Comparing employment this May with that of May last year, reduced employment

### WHERE DID THEY GO? 9,100 JOBS LOST IN TWO INDUSTRIES THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Part of Montana's present unemployment problems lies in the fact that some of its basic industries have been in continuous decline during the past five years. Thousands of jobs have been lost during this period because of vagaries of supply and demand, automation, technological changes, employer economies, and the geographical displacement of industries. During this same time, the number of unemployed has kept multiplying, and the labor force has been growing. The growift in volume and rate of unemployment presents a serious problem. Equally serious is the long duration of unemployment and its persistent character in a few places after the 1957-58 economic downturn. New industries and expansion of existing ones have failed to absorb these unemployed and the new entrants to the state's work force.

The table below shows the employment decline in two industry groups from May 1956 to May 1961. Smaller declines also occurred in manufacturing and trade industries.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

	Мау, 1956	May, 1961	May, 1956
All Mining	12,200	6,800	5,400
Metal Mining	8,600	3,900	4,700
Coal, Quarrying and			
Non-Metallic Mining	800	700	<del></del> 100
Petroleum-Natural Gas Production	2,800	2,200	— 600
Transportation and Utilities	21,900	18,200	3,700
Interstate Railroads	12,400	8,500	-3,900
Transportation except Railroads	3,800	3,700	100
Utilities Including Communication	5,700	6,000	+ 300

is found in six major industry groups. There were 1,200 less workers on transportation and utility payrolls; railroad employment was down 800, trucking and other transit was short 300; with utilities and communications payrolls shy 100. Manufacturing payrolls were minus 900 wage earners with a 400 deficit in the durable goods group and a drop of 500 in non-durable segments of the industry. Other declines from last year were mining, down 900; trade and service industries, down 200 each; finance, insurance, and real estate, down 100.

Government, up 1,100, and construction, up 900, were the only two industries to record higher employment levels this May than last.

Unemployment Hangs High

Hand in hand with the slower than usual seasonal expansion and the carry-over effects of the 1957-58 recession, unemployment continues to persist at unusually high levels.

### LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

		AC	CESSIC	ON RA	TE				5	SEPAR	ATION	RATE	3				
INDUSTRY		Total		N	ew Hi	ге		Total			Quit			Layoff			
	1) Apr 1961	2) Mar 1961	Apr. 1960	Apr. 1961	Mar. 1961	Apr. 1960	Apr. 1961	Mar. 1961	Apr. 1960	Apr. 1961	Mar. 1961	Apr. 1960	Apr. 1961	Mar. 1961	Apr. 1960		
3) All Manufacturing  Durable Goods  Primary Metal	5.6 4.0	3.1 3.3 .9 2.6	7.5 8.3 8.6 5.9	3.7   4.4 2.0 2.4	1.7 1.7 .2 1.9	4.7 4.6 4.5 4.8	2.7 3.1 3.7 1.9	3.7 4.5 4.0 2.3	5.6 6.8 7.3 3.6	1.4 1.4 1.1 1.4	1.3 .9 .9	1.9 2.1 1.5 1.6	.5 .7 .2 .3	1.9 2.9 2.4 .1	1.4 2.1 .1 .3		
All Mining Metal Mining	7.8 4.6	4.4 3.8	11.5 14.9	2.7 .6	1.7	3.2 3.2	7.3 3.3	5.9 5.0	4.9 4.6	2.8	1.8 1.5	3.5 2.9	3.5	2.6 1.8	.3		

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.

<sup>3)</sup> Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.



# Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary, June 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(463 jobseckers, 60 new, 343 men, 120 women). Hiring in industry and farm below last month and a year ago. Closure of phosphate plant at smelter idled 100 June 1, but some workers placed in other units. Present economic conditions keeping most hiring at minimum. Labor supply swelled by entry of college and high school students into summer labor market.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,861 jobseckers, 751 new, 2,048 men, 813 women). Spring hiring behind last year, but over all picture generally good. Major building projects include new bank, two college structures, commercial remodeling projects, and home building. Work forces at Yellowtail Dam not expected to go over the 250 mark this year on both prime and sub-contracts. Reorganization of major oil company June 1 climinated 60 jobs; some to be transferred to out-of-state operations. Trade and service employment at normal seasonal levels; expansion of west side shopping center created 80 new jobs.

BOZEMAN, Eonis, Three Forks, Trident—(358 jobseekers, 157 new, 237 men, 121 women). Variety of construction projects in progress or to start soon include two million dollars in college structures, over 4½ million dollars in highway construction, ½ million dollars in city sewer and airport improvement projects, home building, and commercial remodeling projects. Logging expected to be on full scale schedule next 60 days. Cement and talc processing plants operating at full capacity. Local lumber supply adequate

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,755 jobseekers, 267 new, 1,088 men, 667 women). Employment in metal mining starting to rise moderately with better copper prices. Order for 70 experienced hard rock miners current. Building construction at near standstill due to large number of vacant commercial units and homes. Road construction projects slow in starting. Good hiring trends noted in clerical fields.

CUT BANK—(408 jobseekers, 101 new, 301 men, 107 women). Construction and trade industries hiring highlighted the May labor market scene. Road construction making good progress with major hiring completed. Home building and remodeling projects occupy building craftsmen. Trade and service hiring up with tourist season underway. Farm labor demand good.

DILLON—(160 jobseekers, 74 new, 114 men, 46 women. Labor demand in industry and farm at good seasonal levels. Current

### LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	May	Apr.	May	May-Avg.
	1961	1961	1960	1952-61
Industrial Employment	166,400	163,100	167,900	162,800
New Job Applicants	3,905	3,586	4,428	3,385
Job Applicants, End of Month	15,368	19,073	10,923	8,656
Insured Unemployment, Week of	June 3 1961	May 5 1961	June 3 1960	Avg. 1st June Wk. 1957-61
New and Renewal Claims	681	831	647	644
	6,994	10,667	5,204	5,503
Total Unemployment Claims	7,675	11,498	5,851	6,148

shortage of irrigation water could reduce hay crop yields later. Active construction projects include junior high school, church, and commercial remodeling jobs. Relocation of railroad tracks near Clark Canyon Dam site 75 percent completed; work started on four railroad bridges.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(479 jobseekers, 152 new, 299 men, 180 women). Most construction contractors operating with minimum crews due to limited activity at present. Backlog of workers awaiting start of highway and air base housing projects in June. Some workers leaving for other areas seeking employment. Main street hiring fairly active and should expand with increased construction payrolls.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(213 jobscekers, 59 new, 149 men, 64 women). Labor market forces generally weak in the face of reduced activity in construction, oil fields, and agriculture. Ten oil drilling rigs stacked during May; hiring on others chiefly for replacement only. Construction hiring slow with only two major projects in initial stages.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford,—(2,276 jobseekers, 627 new, 1,481 men, 795 women). In-migration of transients and entry of high school and college students into labor market added to labor surplus during May. Trade industries provided most job openings with more hiring forecast next 30 days. Shortages of cooks and waitresses forecast as summer season advances. Construction employment totals slow in rising with surplus in most classifications. A dry spring reduced normal demand for farm help.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(327 jobseekers, 61 new, 215 men, 112 women). Labor supply 100 above last year with most idle in farm and inexperienced classifications. Most woods and sawmill workers employed with better weather and improving lumber market conditions. Construction slow, but some major projects slated for start later this year. Most farm activity in sugar beet fields and fruit orchards.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(401 jobscekers, 112 new, 289 men, 112 women). Labor demand in industry and farm not yet up to par. No new construction and less railroad employment largely responsible for present economic lag. Fairly stable volume in trade and service industries bolstered by tourist traffic. Farm labor demand not too optimistic.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(689 jobseekers, 145 new, 508 men, 181 women). Jobseeker total substantially higher than last year due chiefly to reduced construction activity and weather-caused holdbacks in logging in White Sulphur Springs area. Upswing expected in June with start of highway and overpass construction and more favorable weather in lumbering areas. Good trends in trade and service channels; shortages of clerical, cook, and waitress workers persist. Opening of new variety store provided 30 jobs; some temporary.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,642 jobseekers, 256 new, 1.293 men, 349 women). Construction, logging, and trade industries provided bulk of May job orders. Construction outlook brighter with work on four road projects, home building, and Libby super market in progress. Start of construction on Libby plywood mill should bring more employment expansion. More hiring in trade and service channels forecast by June 15.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(336 jobseekers, 109 new, 262 men, 74 women). Industry hiring up substantially from a year ago, but farm hiring down. Construction was the most potent hiring force followed by trade industries. Shape of area construction includes missile silos, two schools, armory, and four road projects. Missile employment demands slow, but expected to increase moderately next three weeks.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(348 jobscekers, 90 new, 218 men, 130 women). Area economy strengthened by resumption of full scale woods and sawmill work, high-

### NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)\*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1953	147.1	145,9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	164.1	163.2	162.2	159.9	157.9	156.5
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170,6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177,2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172,2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.4	167.9	175.2	176.3	176.3	174.8	171.5	168.0	165.2	166.6
1961	160.9	159.8	160.2	163.1	166.4*								

<sup>\*</sup> Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. \*\*Preliminary Estimate.

# Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary, June 1

way projects, and seasonal upswing in trade and service units. Seven contractors, employing 186, mostly heavy equipment operators on road construction. Work on Livingston-Bozeman interstate highway section to begin mid-June. Strong trends in trade and service industries sparked by opening of Yellowstone Park and resort areas. Shortages of cooks and waitresses persist.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(198 jobseekers, 93 new, 138 men, 60 women). Labor demand below last year as a result of fewer construction projects and closure of three cafes. Several commercial buildings under construction with minimum crews. Future construction includes county rest home and city sewage lagoon. Interstate highway project on schedule with bridges and overpass completed.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior —(1,282 jobseekers, 435 new, 909 men, 373 women). Economic indicators appear brighter, paced by upswing in logging and lumbering. Hiring in government, railroads, mining, and construction below normal for this time of year. Trade, service, and finance, insurance, real estate units showed active trends. Truck gardens, sugar beets, and cereal grains in good shape.

POLSON—(263 jobseekers, 69 new, 180 men, 83 women). Wet weather held back normal seasonal expansion in logging and construction. Reduced activity in these fields had adverse effects on trade and service channels. Construction limited to one road project and addition to telephone building; home building slow at present. Prospects for good sweet cherry harvest evident.

SHELBY—(265 jobseekers, 113 new, 178 men, 87 women). Main street establishments provided most May job orders as merchants geared to meet increased demands of tourist season. Area construction limited to new high school and overpass at Sunburst. Plans for new Shelby post office approved but no contract date set. Farm hiring down from last year due to unsettled weather during May.

SIDNEY—(177 jobseekers, 62 new, 116 men, 61 women). Labor market activity generally leveling off after some seasonal expansion. Construction activity slow with new building projects on summer agenda. Housing development project to open mid-June. Main street business on par with last year. Thinning of sugar beets main agricultural activity; other farm work slow.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(201 jobseekers, 54 new, 158 men, 43 women). Seasonal expansion, chiefly in logging, reduced jobseeker files during May. Some sawmills temporarily shut down for repairs and because of low log supplies. Area road jobs and building construction including school and post office buildings making good progress. Forest service crews building up with more hiring in June.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(266 jobseekers, 58 new, 206 men, 60 women). Construction employment up substantially from last month with work started on ½ million dollar retirement home, fuel refinery, church, and office building. In addition, two highway contracts active. Surplus of carpenters, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers still prevalent. Opening of new Wolf Point grocery employed 10. Dry weather kept farm hiring at low levels.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	EM	PLOYME	NT \	Net C	hange
INDUSTRY	May 1961 (2)	Apr. 1961 (3)	May 1960	Apr. '61 to May '61	May '60 to May '61
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	166,400	163,100	167,900	3,300	1,500
Manufacturing	19,100	18,000	20,000	1,100	900
Durable goods	12,100	11,100	12,500	1,000	<del>-</del> 400
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	7,100 3,500 1,500	3,400	4,000	900 100 00	500
Nondurable goods	7,000	6,900	7,500	100	500
Food and kindred products	4,000 1,600 900 500		4,000 1,600 1,000 900	100 00 00 00	
Mining  Metal mining  Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic  Petroleum-natural gas production	6,800 3,900 700 2,200	<b>3,900</b> 800	7,700 5,000 700 2,000		1,100 00
Contract Construction	13,000 4,900 3,600 4,500	11,700 4,700 2,800 4,200	12,100 4,800 3,300 4,000	1,300 200 800 300	100 300
Transportation and utilities	18,200 8,500 3,700 6,000	3,700		200 200 00 00	300
Trade  Wholesale trade  Retail trade  General merchandise and apparel  Food stores  Eating and drinking establishments  Automotive and filling stations  Retail trade not elsewhere classified	40,800 8,500 32,300 5,900 5,100 8,200 6,400 6,700		41,000 8,700 32,300 5,800 4,900 8,100 6,700 6,800	700 00 700 00 00 600 100	200 00 100 200 100 300
Finance, insurance and real estate	.6,700	6,700	6,800	. 00	100
Services and miscellaneous	22,500 2,600 2,100 17,800	22,500 2,700 2,000 17,800	22,700 2,800 2,100 17,800	- 100 100	- 200 00
Government Federal State and local	<b>39,300</b> 9,700 29,600	39,200 9,400 29,800	38,200 9,400 28,800	100 300 — 200	300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	3,100 3,200 2,000 5,900	21,600 3,100 2,600 1,900 5,800 4,700 3,500	20,500 3,000 1,900 2,100 5,500 4,600 3,400	900 00 600 100 100 100 00	200

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January, 1959 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
   Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 808 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,264 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and husinesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

### COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MAY 1961 AND MAY 1960

Employment	Nev	w Job	Applica	ants	Jo	bseeke	rs in ]	File				ob Pla	cement				UI Claims*				
Service	May	1961	May	1960	May	1961	May	1960		May	1961			May	1960		Wk	. 6-3			
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1961	1960			
Anaconda Billings Bozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney	60 751 157 267 101 74 152 59 627 61 112 256 109 90 93 435 69	66 215 35 666 388 37 38 8 1777 4 17 23 55	109 698 295 400 121 108 227 117 552 56 101 192 296 66 153 124 440 68 141 57	16 152 69 100 25 47 48 31 139 11 13 40 65 17 39 38 128 14 14 29	463 2,861 358 1,755 408 160 479 213 2,276 327 401 689 1,642 336 348 198 1,282 263 265 265 177	105 524 95 476 133 42 121 53	278 1,612 510 1,263 423 119 315 102 207 204 478 1,680 128 402 95	44 341 94 247 137 29 50 10 245 36 34	22 542 190 65 56 65 50 412 54 138 217 155 92 92 75 254 68 89 69	36 926 88 22 63 117 34 469 183 166 69 63	58 1,468 278 87 119 175 99 519 595	9 242 80 28 50 91 33 31 238 24 91 88 49 69 39 34 87	67 594 164 123 53 44 181 152 404 60 120 197 210 81 102 98 245 112 757	16 876 115 29 86 136 80 530 225 184 87 41 15 85 34 880 59 45 134 1,437	83	16 255 73 31 555 82 87 72 229 37 103 121 66	392 1,512 143 1,000 166 63 398 115 692 162 200 346 865 111 164 126 550 174	112 963 76 647 214 60			
Thomp. Falls. Wolf Point	54 58	16 9	42 65	8 12	201 266	60 67	158) 239	41 42	74 40	6 17	80 57	30	69 28	1 40	70 68	35 36	129 162	138 107			
TOTALS	3,905	966	4,428	1,060	15,368	3,669	10,923	2,463	2,866	4,729	7,595	1,433	3,237	5,135		1,714		5,851			

<sup>\*</sup>Include 228 claims of the Fed. UC Program 171 same a year ago. 1,657 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

### AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly l	Earnings	Averag	ge Weekly	Hours	rs   Average Hourly Earning				
INDUSTRY	May (1) 1961	Apr. (2) 1961	May 1960	May (1) 1961	Apr. (2) 1961	May 1960	May (1) 1961	Apr. (2) 1961	May 1960		
All Manufacturing	\$ 94.35	\$ 97.17	\$ 98.55	38.2	39.5	39.9	2.47	2.46	2.47		
Durable goods	93.21 102.40	96.64 98.64	94.07 96.23	38.2 40.0	40.1 39.3	40.2 39.6	2.44 2.56	2.41 2.51	2.34 2.43		
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	98.16 84.87	99.20 86.32	105.45 83.74	38.8 41.0	38.9 41.5	39.2 39.5	2.53   2.07	2.55 2.08	2.69 2.12		
All Mining	105.99	103.88	101.09	40.3	39.2	39.8	2.63	2.65	2.54		
Metal mining	101.26	102.17	96.89	38.5	38.7	38.6	2.63	2.64	2.51		
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	97.50	94.50	97.16								
Transportation (except railroads)Utilities and communication	104.12 93.53	98.46 91.96	110.28 87.46	39.8	38.8	38.7	2.35	2.37	2.26		

<sup>(1)</sup> Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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